



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

May 21, 2009

Mr. Joseph M. De Julius
President, NJBTEA
Eastampton Community School
1 Student Drive
Eastampton, NJ 08060

Dear Mr. De Julius:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns about the proposed new N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1v regulation requiring at least 2.5 credits in financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy, effective with the 2010-2011 grade nine class.

You are correct that there are some differences between the original recommendations in the April 25, 2008 *NJ STEPS: Re-designing Education in New Jersey for the 21st Century* and the current proposal before the State Board of Education. Extensive public testimony has contributed to the refinement process.

The content of a course fulfilling the new 2.5-credit requirement would most likely be based on standards from several different content areas, depending on the curricular decisions made in an individual district and the certificate held by the teacher instructing the course. Much of the content will undoubtedly involve applications of Mathematics and Standard 9.2 (Financial Literacy). Economics is also integrated as a strand in the proposed social studies standards for grades K-12. This requirement provides an opportunity for students to see how economics is connected to historical content, contemporary issues and events. While you have used the word confusion, I would prefer to use the word flexibility. The proposed requirement provides school districts and students with great flexibility in implementing the new requirement, accommodating both students' interests and school district resources.

When considering certification of teachers, the flexibility does not extend, as you described, to "any certified teacher." Depending on the district curriculum and course title, districts will however have a great deal of flexibility in providing students with opportunities to meet this requirement. If offered as a course in mathematics (e.g., consumer math, financial literacy, or business math), appropriately certified mathematics teachers are authorized to teach such a course. If offered as a business course (e.g., business math, finance, or entrepreneurship), those with appropriate business certificates are authorized to teach such courses. If offered as a

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somewhat traditional course in economics, appropriately certified social studies teachers are then authorized to teach such a course.

On the question of integrating 21st century themes into instruction, there will be numerous examples in the Classroom Applications Documents (CADs) which will accompany the newly revised Core Curriculum Content Standards, soon to be considered by the State Board of Education.

Thank you again for sharing your perspectives. Your comments will be provided to appropriate department staff, as well as with members of the State Board of Education, as they consider amendments to the N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 graduation requirements.

Sincerely,



Lucille E. Davy
Commissioner

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c: Members, State Board of Education

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